

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12951 180707Z  
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /078 W

-----067353 180712Z /14

O 180655Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9677

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UR, JA  
SUBJECT: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET  
TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION BY  
GOJ TO SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG TRIALS. HOWEVER, PRIME  
MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BEEN IN EUROPE SINCE  
DISSIDENT SENTENCES WERE ANNOUNCED, AND IT IS POSSIBLE  
THEY MAY HAVE SPOKEN TO SUBJECT THERE. NOR HAVE WE HEARD  
LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS COMMENT ON SITUATION.

2. EDITORIAL REACTION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN RATHER  
EXTENSIVE. ASAHI WAS ONLY MAJOR DAILY TO ARGUE THAT  
ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO SOVIET TRIALS WAS CALLED FOR, AND TO  
OBSERVE CRITICALLY THAT GOJ HAD REMAINED SILENT. FOR MOST  
PART, OTHERS INDICATED CONCERN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE NOT  
LEAD TO WORSENING OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS OR INTERFERE  
WITH PROGRESS IN ARMS LIMITATION TALKS. FOR

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12951 180707Z

-- YOMIURI NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS MUST BE VIEWED  
FROM LONG-RANGE VIEWPOINT, SAID ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST  
SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE HARDLY ANY EFFECT, AND ARGUED THAT  
SALT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF TRIALS.

-- TOKYO SHIMBUN AGREED WITH LATTER POINT, SUGGESTING THAT  
DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM

HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM.

-- MAINICHI SAW HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY AS ONE CAUSE OF WORSENING U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND SAID IT WAS NECESSARY FOR BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET LEADERS TO TRY TO DISCOVER GOOD POINTS OF THE OTHER SIDE SO THAT THEY CAN CO-EXIST TOGETHER.

-- SANKEI EDITORIAL SUGGESTED THAT ONE OF REASONS FOR SOVIET UNION'S HOLDING THE TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS AT THIS TIME MAY BE TO EXPLORE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THE U.S. SIDE TOWARD SALT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, AND NOTED THAT LACK OF UNITY ON THE U.S. SIDE AS TO HOW TO TREAT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WAS MAKING SITUATION STILL MORE COMPLICATED.

-- JAPAN TIMES WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET ACTION, NOTED U.S. POLICY IS TO PURSUE ARMS LIMITATION AS SEPARATE ISSUE, BUT WONDERED HOW SUCCESSFUL ARMS TALKS COULD BE IN CLIMATE OF DISTRUST AND RESENTMENT CREATED BY HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO12951  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014